

prisoners taken by the regiment. These furnished valuable information for the attack. On September 1st the attack was made and the 119th Infantry took Voormezeele.

September 5, the whole regiment was deloused and bathed at "Kill-bug Station," each man getting clean underwear, for after a period in the line the little bugs known as "cooties" were plentiful. The regiment was at this time transferred to the Third British Army, and then it went to St. Pol, the most beautiful area in which it was ever billeted. There it learned to fight in connection with heavy tanks, such an opportunity rarely falling to American troops and being of great value. Next the regiment went to a point near Albert. Here Capt. Chapman, the regiment's only regular army officer, reported for duty, was assigned to F Company and was killed in his first action. Lieutenant Colonel Don Scott was promoted Colonel, but at his special request was permitted to remain in command of his battalion until after its next great action.

September 23 the Division was transferred to the Fourth British Army, motor busses by hundreds rolled into place and the troops were moved in these all night, Australian officers joining them the next day and giving valuable instruction. The regiment found that in front of it lay the hitherto untaken "Hindenburg Line," attacked so many times in vain, that the British army of which it was a part, had been given the task of fighting the only decisive battle in the World War; that the place of honor in this attack had been given the Fourth British Army; that the 30th Division as part of this army would attack in the center, with the 46th British Division on the right and the 27th American on the left; that the 119th and 120th Infantry had been selected to do the job; that is to cross the canal, with the 117th Infantry to follow and attack to the right, the 118th Infantry being the divisional reserve.

The 120th and the 119th attacked the Hindenburg system, which consisted first of three rows of heavy barbed wire woven so thick as to look like a mass of mingled briars and vines, with each row thirty or forty feet deep and which the artillery fire had little damaged; second three rows of the Hindenburg trenches, on which four years of work had been spent; third the backbone of the whole system, Bellicourt, the St. Quentin Canal tunnel, through which the canal passed underground 6,000 yards, having been built by the great Napoleon and being in some places 190 feet below the level of the ground.

The Germans had filled this canal with barges, lighted it with electric lights and had hospital dressing stations in it. On the barges they had accommodations for 15,000 troops, secure from any shell fire, and had closed the end of the tunnel with reenforced concrete walls, with small openings for machine guns. To their trench system and to the town of Bellicourt overhead ran concrete tunnels through which their troops could move to reenforce the front line or occupy the prepared positions in Bellicourt. In addition the Germans had another defense line and also the village of Nauroy, which they had prepared for a strong defense, machine guns by the thousand being on these lines. The Germans were so sure this position could not be taken that even after the Americans had captured it the prisoners would not believe it to be possible and laughed at those who told them.

It required four hours for the Division to reach its final objective, following one of the most frightful barrage fires ever known. Just before the attack Capt. Ben Dixon called his company together and they gave a solemn pledge to "carry through" to the objective, though only one man be spared alive. Captain Leonard counted some eggs in his haversack and gave them to Peter, one of his trusted men; a brave fellow who once so far forgot the war, as to chase crippled partridges right in the midst of the German counter-barrage fire. Major Graham, who always called loudly for hot coffee saw that he got it then and there.

For forty-eight hours before the attack there was continuous bombardment of the enemy and prisoners said they had never seen anything like it. It was at 4:30 in the morning that the troops stood in line on the "tape" which had been laid by the 105th Engineers, and away went the troops and the tanks, following a barrage from fourteen brigades of artillery; besides the heavy guns and an enormous number of machine guns. At 7:25 in the morning the main Hindenburg system had been crossed in dense fog and smoke and the "mopping-up" battalion which followed sent a constant stream of Boche prisoners to the rear. At 11:30 a. m. Nauroy was occupied and the regiment stood on its objective and then the Australians passed through as planned.

The 60th Brigade was the first unit on the entire British front to break through the entire Hindenburg Line, and the 120th regiment was the only unit which took all of its objectives in this great attack on time. German officers